

silicon dioxide and bondable to nucleic acids, to form a nucleic acid-binding solid phase,

[a step 4 for] isolating the nucleic acid-binding solid phase from a liquid,

[a step 5 for] washing, without heating during the washing, the nucleic acid-binding solid phase with a solution containing an acetate, and

[a step 6 for] eluting the nucleic acids from the solid phase.

2. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, which further comprises the step, before the mixing step [2], [a step 1 for] of promoting the release of nucleic acids from the material.

3. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said washing step [5 is composed of a step 5a for] includes removing non-nucleic-acid components from the nucleic acid-binding solid phase by washing, and [a step 5b for] removing the accelerator substance from the solid phase by washing.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein a solution of guanidine hydrochloride is used in said step [5a for washing and] of removing the non-nucleic-acid components from the solid phase by washing.

6. (Amended) A method for the recovery of nucleic acids from a material containing nucleic acids, which comprises the following steps:

[a step 2 for] mixing a nucleic acid-containing material with an accelerator substance for the binding of nucleic acids to a solid phase,

[a step 3 for] making the mixture obtained in said mixing step [2] in contact with a solid phase containing silicon dioxide and bondable to nucleic acids, to form a nucleic acid-binding solid phase,

[a step 4 for] isolating the nucleic acid-binding solid phase from a liquid,

[a step 5 for] washing, without heating during the washing, the nucleic acid-binding solid phase with a solution containing 0.2 mol/liter or more of potassium chloride, and

[a step 6 for] eluting the nucleic acids from the solid phase.

7. (Amended) A method for the recovery of nucleic acids from a material containing nucleic acids, which comprises the following steps:

[a step 2 for] mixing a nucleic acid-containing material with an accelerator substance for the binding of nucleic acids to a solid phase,

[a step 3 for] making the mixture obtained in said mixing step [2] in contact with a solid phase containing

silicon dioxide and bondable to nucleic acids, to form a nucleic acid-binding solid phase,

[a step 4 for] isolating the nucleic acid-binding solid phase from a liquid,

[a step 5 for] washing, without heating during the washing, the nucleic acid-binding solid phase with a washing mixture of an aqueous solution containing a salt and an alcohol, and

[a step 6 for] eluting nucleic acids from the solid phase.

8. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said method further includes a step [7] for removing the alcohol after said eluting step [6].

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the alcohol used in said washing step [5] is ethanol at a concentration less than 50% in the washing mixture.

10. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said washing mixture [for washing] used in said washing step [5] is a solution containing 40% of ethanol and 10 mmol/liter or more of potassium acetate.

11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein said washing mixture [for washing] used in said washing step

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[5] is a solution containing 40% of ethanol and 25 mmol/liter or more of sodium chloride.

12. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said accelerator substance used in the mixing step [2] is guanidine hydrochloride.

--16. The method according to Claim 8, wherein the alcohol used in said washing step is ethanol at a concentration less than 50% in the washing mixture.

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--17. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said washing mixture used in said washing step is a solution containing 40% of ethanol and 10 mmol/liter or more of potassium acetate.

--18. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said washing mixture used in said washing step is a solution containing 40% of ethanol and 25 mmol/liter or more of sodium chloride.

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--19. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said accelerator substance used in the mixing step is guanidine hydrochloride.--